

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of April 3, 2006**

1. Laurel Avenue Construction (Wards 1 & 3): Final construction is expected to take place next week on Laurel Avenue. The pedestrian signal across Laurel Avenue will not be functioning for a minimum of two days while the system is changed to ADA accessible signals. In addition, the ramp at Laurel and Carroll will be improved and the cracked portion of the median repaired. *(Housing and Community Development)*

2. Annual Egg Hunt Canceled: The annual Egg Hunt sponsored by the Recreation Department is being postponed due to the weather forecast for tomorrow. The rescheduled date is Saturday, April 15, at 11:00 am at the Ed Wilhelm Field, behind the Piney Branch Elementary School. *(Recreation)*

3. Enterprise Zone Meeting (Wards 2, 3, and 6): Next week the City hosts the April Enterprise Zone meeting for businesses in the area of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard. The meeting will be at the Takoma Park Recreation Center at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, April 12th. This month features the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection, which will teach how to avoid the latest scams that target small businesses. The meeting will also include an update on area criminal activity from Sgt. Gilbert of Takoma Park Police and a planning update from the City's Senior Planner. For more information, please contact David Suls at 301-891-7219. *(Housing and Community Development)*

4. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Wards 1, 2 and 6):

- Ward 1 - The tenants residing at 7414 Piney Branch Road have received notice that the 2 unit property will be going on the market for sale. Once a sales price for the property is established, the tenants will be provided information on their right to purchase under Chapter 6.32 of the Code.

- Ward 2 - Tenants residing at 701-03 Ethan Allen Avenue will be receiving a second offer to purchase their rental property. The property, originally listed for \$2,399,000, was offered to the tenants in March. Due to a reduction in the price to \$1,851,000, a second offer will be made to the tenants. HCD staff will be contacting the tenants to advise them of their continued rights under the ordinance. The city's community organizers will visit the building during the week of April 10th.

- Ward 6 - Tenants residing at 7901 Lockney Avenue have been notified that there is a third party on the property. The four unit building is being sold for \$569,990. The property was initially placed on the market in January for \$595,000. A letter will be sent to the tenants asking them to contact the city if they have any questions regarding their rights under the tenant opportunity to purchase law. *(Housing and Community Development)*

5. Community Center Construction to Temporarily Disrupt Meeting Locations:

Between approximately April 11 and May 5, Community Center construction activities will change some ways to access the building and cause a number of public meetings to move, including City Council meetings. During this time period, neither the Community Center Auditorium (where the City Council meets) nor the elevator will be available for use. The Takoma Park City Council will meet at the Takoma Park Middle School on Piney Branch Road for its meetings of April 17, April 24 and May 1. Most Board, Committee and Commission meetings normally held in rooms in the Community Center will also be moved during the construction period. Please contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 for meeting location information. Because the Grant Avenue entrance to the building will be closed and the elevator will not be available, the City will be making special accommodations for those with mobility difficulties. The Library, Senior Room and Computer Learning Center will continue to be accessible as they are now. Police services will continue to be accessible from the front parking lot of the building. All other City services offered at 7500 Maple Avenue will be brought to handicapped patrons in the Police Department lobby, in the Computer Learning Center, or at the reception desk in the Community Center atrium. Persons with mobility difficulties who wish to pay bills, have passport services, or conduct other City business may come into the Police Department lobby, Community Center atrium, or the Computer Learning Center and request assistance. City staff will then serve the patrons at that location. Please see the City's web site, www.takomaparkmd.gov, for more information. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

6. Street Restoration (Ward 2): Contractor is continuing curb and gutter replacement on Davis Avenue. Next week a section of Jackson Avenue will be repaired and the crews will move to Heather Avenue. *(Public Works)*

7. Takoma Metro Workshop Summary Available: A summary of WMATA's March 4th planning workshop regarding development plans for the Takoma Metro site is now available on-line at http://www.wmata.com/about/community/Takoma_report.pdf. No date for WMATA Board action has yet been set regarding the proposals. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

8. Purple Line Update: Staff has been attending meetings regarding the proposed Bi-County Transitway (more commonly known as the Purple Line). A location for a maintenance/storage yard for the line in Prince George's County must be found soon. Possible results of not finding a Prince George's County storage yard are that a light-rail line may only go between Bethesda and Silver Spring, or, if the Montgomery County yard is able to expand some, may only go between Bethesda and Takoma-Langley Park. More likely, not having a Prince George's County yard may mean that the system would use bus rapid transit vehicles rather than light rail ones. On a related item, plans for the bus transit center at the Taco Bell site on University Boulevard at New Hampshire Avenue have been delayed somewhat. It had been thought that construction could begin this October, but discussions are underway that could delay the project. For more information, please contact Suzanne Ludlow at SuzanneL@takomagov.org or 301-891-2229. *(Community & Government Liaison)*

9. CSAFE Grant Application (Ward 6): The grant application to the state for continued funding of the Maryland International Corridor CSAFE Initiative was submitted Wednesday, prepared by Mary Kendall and John Brill. Ms. Kendall, formerly the Montgomery County community organizer has become the new Program Director, following the resignation of Brill, who has headed the program since 2002. Brill was instrumental in building cross-jurisdictional and inter-disciplinary cooperative programs, which garnered expanded funding and recognition for the initiative. He will be spending more time with his family and working on programs for at-risk and minority young people. *(Police)*

10. Maryland Federal Deputies: Capt. Coursey attended a meeting of Prince George's County municipal police leaders to discuss strategies for federal deputizing of Maryland law enforcement officers who work in jurisdictions adjacent to the District. Continued meetings on this topic are planned. *(Police)*

11. Officer in Training: Chris Eckford attended in-service training at the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy for three days. Once approval is received from the Maryland Police Training Commission, a time will be scheduled for him to take the oath of office. *(Police)*

12. Traffic Enforcement: Half of all traffic stops this week were conducted on the major thoroughfares of Maple, New Hampshire, Flower, and University with the remaining on residential streets. The Department has begun its participation in the state's Chief Challenge, which seeks to increase use of safety restraints in vehicles by both adults and children. *(Police)*

13. Officers in WACO (Ward 3): Det/Cpl John and Cpl Smith attended the WACO meeting Thursday evening to report on crime information in the area. *(Police)*

14. Search Warrant - Cole Avenue (Ward 6): Investigators spent considerable time this week processing evidence from the search warrant conducted last week on Cole Avenue. Detectives report they have received information that the home has been sold to a private investor, who owns other property in the area and intends to rent the home to a family. *(Police)*

15. Arbor Day: Arbor Day is this Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm on the Library grounds (rain location: inside the Community Center). *(Public Works)*

16. New Hire Update: Please see attached PDF article on the City's website regarding the newest employee in the Police Department. *(Human Resources)*

17. Weekend Event: City TV staff will be using the PEG Network van to video tape the Tastes of Takoma festival at CUC this Sunday. *(City TV)*

18. Snapshots: The April Snapshots is now airing. Features include: Community Oriented Policing: Careers After Law Enforcement; Jazz Band Brawl Highlights; Takoma Park Poetry Series: Poems of Brian Gilmore and Kathleen O'Toole; Honoring Lee Jordan: Montgomery County Office of Human Rights Inducts Lee Jordan Into the Hall of Fame. *(City TV)*

19. The Council in School: City TV staff are making preparations to video tape the Council meetings which will be held at the Takoma Park Middle School April 17, 24 and May 1. These meetings will not be aired live but will be replayed during the week and posted to the web site as soon as possible. (*City TV*)

New Hire Update

April 7, 2006



Kristian Pedersen

Home is where the heart is . . .

Kristian returns to the City of Takoma Park Police Staff after working with the Metropolitan Police Department for nine months. As a Takoma Park Police Officer, Kristian will be responsible for patrolling the city streets, enforcing local, state and federal laws; and, maintaining law and order. Pedersen enjoys spending time with his first born son, Lukas Glenn, born November 30, 2005. Kristian admits that he is glad to be back home.

Take a few minutes to stop by and say Hello to Kristian.



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK